

COP27 lacked broader commitment

Summit created agreement to set up aid fund for developing countries, but did not commit to tighter targets.

[APREN – The Portuguese Renewable Energy Association](#) welcomes the agreement reached in COP27 to set up a fund to support developing countries, particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. However, several worrying points remained unaddressed, preventing a more immediate response to the climate emergency.

COP27, the United Nations (UN) climate change conference, took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6 to 18. Despite several days of debate and discussion, only on the 20th the final decisions were reached, with the establishment of a historical fund for losses and damages. This fund will make the countries that contribute to it, participate in the effort to save lives and livelihoods from climate change-related disasters.

No agreement was reached to reduce global net greenhouse gas emissions by 43% by 2030 compared to 2019 - to limit global warming to the 1.5°C target. In addition, it was agreed that water should be further integrated into adaptation efforts to increase the protection, conservation and restoration of food security, agriculture, and water-related ecosystems, including watersheds, aquifers and lakes.

It also stressed the need to transform the financial system, including multilateral development banks and international financial institutions. They are called upon to reform their practices and priorities, align and increase funding to ensure simplified access and mobilise climate finance from various sources.

Despite the progress, and the long hours of negotiations, there are still disagreement points, which APREN considers worrisome.

The Paris agreement (2015) contained two temperature targets – keeping the temperature rise "well below 2°C" and "continuing efforts" to maintain the increase at 1.5°C. At COP26 in Glasgow, as commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions were too weak to stay within the 1.5°C limit, the various countries have agreed to strengthen them again annually. However, the resolution that required it was, in the meantime, withdrawn.

On the other hand, the final text of COP27 contains a willingness to boost "low-emission" energies. Although this expression may be associated with several renewable solutions, it may also include the use of natural gas or nuclear. This is a concerning issue to APREN, and which is a clear sign of the pressure of some countries present at COP27, to protect their natural gas and electricity businesses from nuclear source.

Finally, last year in Glasgow, a commitment was agreed to gradually reduce the use of coal. It was the first time that a resolution on fossil fuels was included in the final text. At this year's COP27, some countries led by India wanted to go further and commit to gradually reducing all fossil fuels, but the proposal ultimately failed.

Having said that, APREN welcomes the efforts made by all parties involved. Still, considering the current climate emergency, and European Union's enhanced plans, such as Fit for 55 and REPowerEU, a deeper and broader commitment to a sustainable future was needed.

Lisbon, November 22, 2022.



For more information, please refer to:

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About APREN:

The [Portuguese Renewable Energy Association \(APREN\)](#) is a non-profit association founded in October 1988. Its mission is to coordinate and represent the common interests of its members, promoting renewables energies in the electricity field. APREN works closely with the government and other official entities, both on a national and international levels. It participates actively in the definition of energy and environmental policies, valuing natural resources for electricity production, namely hydric, wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and urban solid waste.